

distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Amendments to claims 1, 5 and 6 were made without limitation of the claims to place them in better form for issue and avoid the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5-7 are deemed allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph and to incorporate any intervening claims. Amendments to claims 1, 5 and 6 were made without limitation of the claims to place them in better form for issue and avoid the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Also, claims 2-9 are deemed allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore allowance of all of the claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being obvious over Tsuruoka 5,055,744 in view of Tatsuda et al. 4,972,116. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being obvious over Tsuruoka 5,055,744 in view of Tatsuda et al. 4,972,116 and Mera et al. 4,122,376. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being obvious over Tsuruoka in view of Tatsuda et al., Mera and Kawasaki, and claim 17 was rejected in view of Tsuruoka. Applicant submits that all of the remaining claims 12-17 are patentable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of these remaining claims are respectfully requested.

The independent claim 12 includes, among other limitations, "an electron controller including a plurality of grids, to allow repulsion and acceleration of electrons toward the display when a negative potential is applied thereto."

Tsuruoka discloses a display device including a substrate 25 and a front cover 26. "On the inner surface of the front cover 26 is depositly arranged a diffusion electrode 27." Col 4, lines 14-20, and

FIG. 2. A positive or negative voltage is applied to the diffusion electrode 27 for forcing the electrons to the anode. However, the diffusion electrode of Tsuruoka does not include a plurality of grids, as required by the amended claim 12. Additionally, as the Examiner correctly states, Tsuruoka "fails to teach a vacuum," which is also a required limitation of claim 12. See Office action, page 4, line 8.

Tatsuda does not teach or suggest "an electron controller including a plurality of grids, to allow repulsion and acceleration of electrons toward the display when a negative potential is applied thereto," as required by claim 12.

Consequently, none of the cited references, alone or in combination disclose or suggest "an electron controller including a plurality of grids, to allow repulsion and acceleration of electrons toward the display when a negative potential is applied thereto," as required by the independent claim 12.

In short, the independent claim 12 and the respective dependent claims 13-17 which include all the limitations of claim 12 and additional limitations thereon, define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Response to Reasons for Allowance:

The Examiner's Statement Of Reasons For Allowance indicates that claims are allowed because none of the prior art references of record shows "the combinations of all the limitations" as set forth in the allowed claims. Applicant believes that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, in view of the record of prosecution as a whole, does not fully describe various reasons for allowance of the

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claims. Moreover, Applicant believes that the record of the prosecution as a whole provides sufficient clarity as to reasons for allowance of claims, and does so in more contextual and thorough fashion than the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the above-identified application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Thrice Amended) A vacuum flourescent display comprising:
a pair of substrates and side glasses surrounding an evacuated envelope;

an electron emissive means for emitting electrons when a negative potential is applied;

a display means, provided on one of the substrates in the evacuated envelope, ~~capable of having~~ for receipt of a positive potential applied thereto, and for displaying a predetermined image in response to electrons emitted from the electron emissive means; and

an electron control means for generating a repulsive electric field when a negative potential is applied thereto to allow acceleration of electrons emitted from the electron emissive means in the direction of the display means,

wherein the electron emissive means is located between the display means and electron control means.

2. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 1, wherein the electron control means is mounted on the ~~other~~ substrate.

5. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 3 1, wherein the electron control means is a plurality of grids which are shaped as a mesh.

6. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 3 1, wherein the electron control means is a layer of a transparent electrically conductive material.

12. (Twice Amended) A vacuum flourescent display comprising:

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a pair of substrates and side glasses surrounding an evacuated envelope;

a display provided on one of the substrates in the evacuated envelope;

an electron controller including a plurality of grids, to allow repulsion and acceleration of electrons toward the display when a negative potential is applied thereto; and

an electron emitter located between the display and electron controller.

13. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 12, wherein the electron controller is mounted on the ~~other~~ substrate.

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